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General Flagler estimates that it will require forty-eight millions of dollars to meet the expense of the proposed coast defence. If his recommendations are adopted the government will spend four millions a year for twelve years on these perfectly useless fortifications.

The Queen, on opening the new Parliament on the 15th of August, was "happy to say that no international complication has arisen in any quarter that is calculated to endanger the peace of Europe."

Reports received at the State Department from the United States consul at Victoria, B. C., indicate that the seals in Behring Sea are practically exterminated.

THE MYSTIC GROVE PEACE MEETING.

Specially prepared for the ADVOCATE OF PEACE by Miss Christine V. Whipple.

The Connecticut Peace Society with the Universal Peace Union convened in the Grove of Peace at Mystic, Conn., August 20th, for a Conference of four days. They were joined by delegates from other peace societies, and by workers in other lines of reform; and had an audience from the surrounding neighborhoods which at some of the sessions numbered several thousands.

The first session of the meeting opened at about half-past ten o'clock Tuesday morning. Alfred H. Love, president of the Universal Peace Union, was in the chair. Exercises of devotion were led by Rev. O. D. Sherman of Mystic, in the reading of the Scriptures, and John Collins of Philadelphia in prayer. The secretary of the Connecticut Peace Society, Miss Christine V. Whipple of Mystic, next read letters of a friendly nature from Gov. Coffin, Hon. Dorman B. Eaton and Rev. Charles H. Eaton of New York city, Mrs. Mary A. Livermore of Melrose, Mass., Dr. Merrill E. Gates, president of Amherst college, G. W. Minier of Minier, Ill., Sidi H. Browne of Columbia, S. C., Hon. Amos Perry and Augustine Jones of Providence and others.

Levi W. Crouch of Norwich, Conn., president of the Connecticut Peace Society, was the first speaker. He prefaced his address with words of welcome, expressing the desire that all in attendance should through the influence of the convention become benefited and strengthened to meet the trials of the future in a manner befitting those who bear the high name of the Prince of Peace. His subject was "War and the Church." In the course of his address he said: "We sometimes hear it said that resistance was allowed under Moses' law, and as Moses received his law from God, and as God never changes, resistance by the sword must also be allowed under the Christian dispensation. But Moses said, 'A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, of your brethren, like unto me. Unto him shall ye harken in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.' In so saying Moses acknowledged that Christ's law should supersede his law. When Christ came He said: 'Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old-time, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' referring directly to Moses' law, 'but I say unto you that ye resist not evil. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully

use you and persecute you,' as much as to say, 'Moses from the hardness of your hearts suffered you to resist evil with evil, but from the beginning it was not so. God made you all of one blood and ye are all brethren, and for this cause shall a man suffer wrong rather than do wrong.'"

W. G. Brown of Toronto was the speaker of the afternoon. His subject was "Conditions essential to the Promotion of Peace." The subject to which he directed special attention was international arbitration.

He said in the course of his address: "The same conditions more or less apply to the promotion of peace in the social and the industrial fields. In the sphere of international polity, there is at the present time a semblance of peace, but its continuance is by no means assured. When it is considered that Europe contributed last year to the maintenance of arms no less than \$920,500,000 and more than 28,000,000 men, the expenditure of so vast a sum, enough to materially relieve European distress, may not only be questioned, but also the consequences of the withdrawal of a nation of men taken from industrial pursuits to an aimless life of military discipline. It is the duty of every man and woman to be thoughtful concerning the condition of humanity everywhere; and the simple application of individual responsibility to the study of the European situation would promote the growth of the peace spirit."

The remainder of the day was devoted to a peace prize contest in recitation by eighteen young people under twenty years of age. The prize, a large engraving of West's painting of Penn's Treaty with the Indians, was the gift of Thomas E. Packer of Mystic, and was awarded to Miss Laura Packer also of Mystic, who recited "The Young Soldier" by Carey.

The first speaker to be introduced on the second day of the Convention was John Branson of Philadelphia. His subject was "The many Inconsistencies between the Teachings of the Christian Church and her Living of those Teachings." He was followed by the president, Mr. Love, in the line of his argument.

The next speaker was Frank Stephens of Philadelphia upon the subject of the Single Tax. He said that the poor man was enslaved under land monopoly, and that until this condition should be changed there could be no assured peace. He described the work now carried on by the Single Tax association of Delaware; and believed that through this agency the State was to take the lead in social and political progress.

Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood of Boston was the first speaker of the afternoon. His subject was "War on the Defensive." He showed the chief forces which have put war on the defensive to be Christianity in the person and character of Christ, and the teachings of the New Testament; the discoveries of science creating more intimate acquaintance and complete community of thought; commerce, which is weaving all the material interests of the world into one web; travel, which is making every land the country of every man, and the growing intelligence and power of the people.

The causes of the present strength of the war power, the speaker showed to be, first, an inheritance of the past like an hereditary taint in the blood; second, the necessity of uniforming and arming on a scale required by the demands of the times, if armaments are to be maintained at all; third, because it is supported by those whose position and living depend upon it; fourth, the lukewarmness

of many who in heart are convinced of the wrongfulness of war. It is for us to wage our conflict with this powerful system of evil with the weapons of Christian truth and of reason. We must show that war is not only unchristian but also monstrously irrational and unworthy of man.

Rev. A. J. McLeod of Stafford Springs, Conn., said the peace question was one of vital importance. The cause of war was the desire of one man to lord it over another. The money spent in war could make a state one vast garden, more beautiful than Eden itself.

Mrs. Belya A. Lockwood spoke of her work in the International Peace Bureau and of other lines of reform in which she is especially interested.

Dr. M. R. Leverson of Staten Island delivered an address on "The Threatening Anarchy and what Peace Societies shall do for Education." The first part of his discourse was upon the doctrines of the single tax which the speaker believed to be closely related to the cause of peace. He then turned his attention to the subject of the Boys' Brigade, and concluded by asking the convention to appoint a committee to examine the work referred to and report to the assembly a plan for an international university.

Brief addresses were also made by Mrs. Mary Meredith Fell of Swarthmore, Pa., and Hamilton Wilcox of New York city.

The program of the morning of the third day included a series of short addresses. Dr. Ellen Goodell Smith of Dwight, Mass., gave the "Causes of Warfare and their Remedy." Mrs. Mary Frost Ormsby of New York gave interesting reminiscences of her travels upon missions of peace. Mrs. James H. Earle of Boston presented a discourse on "Peace in the Home." Oliver S. Fell of Swarthmore, Pa., portrayed the noble character of William Penn; J. K. Bucklyn, LL.D., of Mystic, presented a scholarly paper on "True Education;" and Hon. Hadlai A. Hull of New London handled the temperance question with a firm grasp.

At the opening of the second session, William Lloyd Garrison was introduced. He said in the course of his address that he "knew of no word more misunderstood than peace. Men use it who utterly fail to comprehend its meaning. There is a wide distinction between non-resistants and so-called peace men. When the occasion arrives for putting their principles into practice, the former hold to their convictions in spite of consequences, while the latter by a mental process are able to suspend their principles for the time being and find excuses for bending with the popular breeze. * * * When the civil war broke out the sympathies of the abolitionists were of course with the North. It was therefore in order to taunt the non-resistants with inconsistency. As though a thorough peace man must not rejoice when an evil is overthrown even by the use of arms. * * * First pure, then peaceable. The civil war was the natural result of the auction block and bloodhound, just as disease is the result of physical abuse. * * * Every boy taught to drill, every glorification of our citizen troops is a preparation for future strife and not for true national or civic defence. * * * The passage of one law in favor of free trade or the single tax will do more to advance the peace cause than a thousand peace conventions. * * * A cessation of the overworked sentiment of patriotism and blind worship of the flag will mark a solid advance towards peace."

Dr. Johnson said, "If patriotism be not 'the refuge of scoundrels,' it surely is the abiding place of demagogues and buncombe. * * * I hold with the exalted sentiment of Fenelon: 'I prefer my family to myself, my country to my family and the human race to my country.' Accept this and tariffs die. Make this a reality and the appropriation of God's country by landlords in order to abstract labor's earnings without equivalent would be outlawed by civilization. If we mean peace, let us work for the things that make for peace."

James H. Earle of Boston next spoke of the Boys' Brigade. His subject was "That Boy."

He first dwelt upon the great possibilities of the coming generation; but said the Boys' Brigade movement was advancing steadily. "It is not for me to pass judgment on the motives of others; but when error is mixed with truth it is doubly dangerous. The manual of the Boys' Brigade shows that it is built up on military lines. It is militarism that draws and holds the boys. I have more fear of militarism than of smallpox in the country. I condemn militarism as selfish and unpatriotic. There is no word but love and honor for patriotism, and it is not to be confounded with militarism. The country has not been built up by standing armies but by the arts and industries of peace. The military movement is hostile to Jesus Christ. As a people whose Marseillaise is the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians, whose Magna Charta is the Sermon on the Mount, we cannot approve of the Boys' Brigade."

Other speakers of the day were Mrs. Ida W. Benham of Mystic, Thomas G. Whipple of Norwich, Mrs. Carrie Burnham Kilgore of Philadelphia, Fred E. Whipple and Hon. John W. Foster of Westerly.

The first hour of the last day of the meeting was principally devoted to business. The officers of the Universal Peace Union were all re-elected.

James H. Earle of Boston moved that a committee of seven be appointed from local members of the Connecticut Peace Union to prepare a plan for a substitute for the Boys' Brigade, for the boys *and girls*, in anticipation of the annual meeting at the Peace Grove next year. This motion was unanimously passed and the committee appointed.

Rev. W. S. Heywood of Sterling, Mass., in an address summed up the arguments of the speakers who had preceded him. He did not believe that permanent peace was to come through the tariff reform or through the single tax, but through a higher agency, quoting "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

Other addresses were by Francis Gallagher, of the Rhode Island Radical Peace Society, with the subject, "War, its Social, Moral and International Relations;" W. H. Hall, Secretary of the Connecticut Sunday School Association, on "What the Sunday School can do to promote Peace;" Rev. W. P. Ray of Springfield, Mass., on "The Gospel Mission" and Dr. Sarah Eavanson of Philadelphia in farewell.

The exercises were interspersed with music under the direction of Silas S. Whipple of Norwich. The songs, some of which were written for the occasion, had genuine peace words.

Wars have been a disgrace to that Christianity which the nations profess.—*Lord John Russell.*